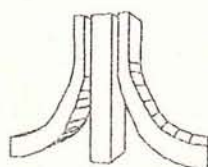# WAUG! Newsletter

Where you discover it's more than just a toy!

WASHTENAW ATARI USERS' GROUP

How to Contact WAUG!

Clear Thinking: (313)761-2444 (300/1200 baud)
Molin's Den: (313)420-0407 (300/1200 baud)
Treasure CheST: (313)973-9137 (300/1200 baud)

BY MAIL: WAUG!
3487 Braeburn Circle
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

List of Future WAUG! Activities

Oct. 13: Repair and Troubleshooting
Nov. 10: Graphics/Printers
Dec. 8: MIDI-Maze Fun Night/Christmas Party
Jan. 12: Telecommunications
Feb. 9: Games Night
Mar. 8: Business Applications
Apr. 12: Music
May 10: "Hack and Slash"
Jun. 14: Elections/Flea Market

How to Join WAUG!

In Person: Come to a meeting! WAUG! meets the second Tuesday of each month from 7:30 to 10 PM. Meetings are held in Room 2228 of the Uof M School of Education Building (East and South University, near Ulrich's Bookstore, see map below). No meetings are held in July and August.

By Mail: Send a check for $10, payable to Bob Carlini (our Treasurer), to the mailing address above. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number. Please include information about your system and interests.

Benefits of WAUG! Membership

WAUG! members receive the club newsletter, keeping ⎯ m informed about what's going on in WAUG! and the whole Atari community. Members also have access to the 8t ⎯ d ST disk libraries. These disks are jam-packed with useful and entertaining public domain software. Members pay the special club rate of $2 for 8bit and $3 for ST disks, and disks may be purchased in person or by mail.
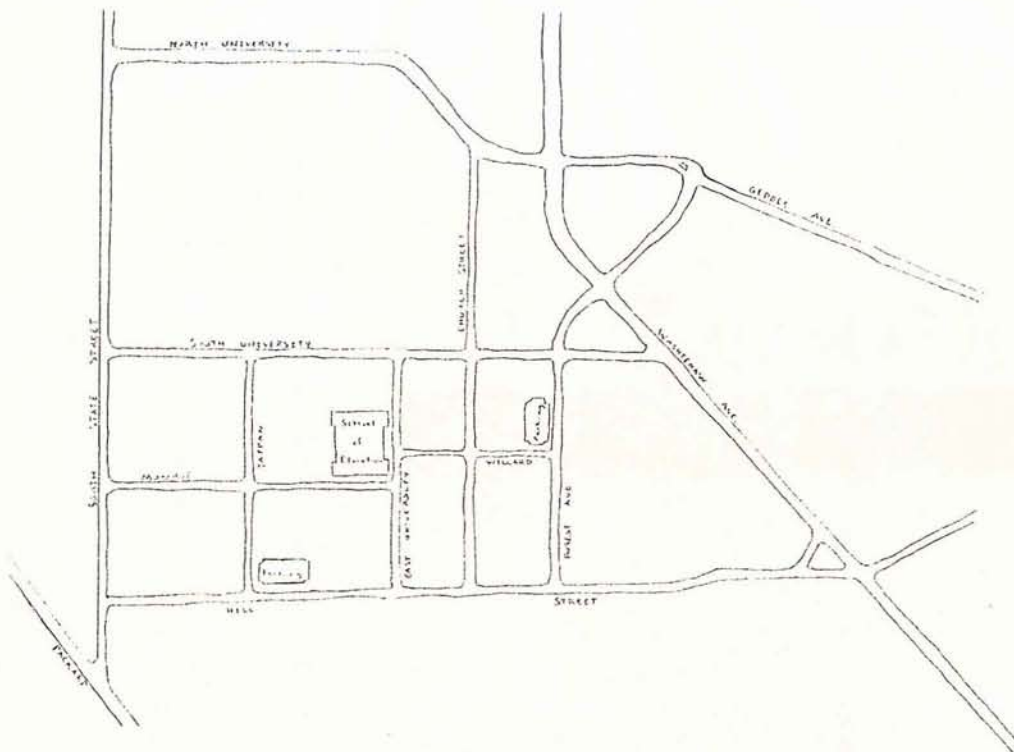
The most important benefit you receive is the help and support from (and interaction with) other Atari owners. If you're having a problem, need advice about a software package, or whatever, your fellow WAUG! members can and will help. That's what a user group is all about -- helping each other get the most from their computing.

The Powers that Be

President Mike Olin
Vice President Pattie Snyder-Rayl
Treasurer Bob Carlini
Secretary Vacant
Newsletter Editor Bill Rayl
8bit Librarian Mike Pieronek
ST Librarian Bruce Urbanski

If you have any suggestions or ideas for the club, these are the people you should pester! They'll be glad you did, honest. Of course, if you just want to heap praise on t ⎯ /e could possibly be coerced into listening!

Map to UofM School of Education

From the Prez

Well, it took a lot of effort on the part of my fellow officers and some brave members, but we did it: we made our first foray into the world at the Atari Magic Show and there is no doubt in my mind that WAUG has benefited greatly from the exposure.

If you missed it, shame on you! Bruce's Armatron demo ('Taribot?) was a hit amongst all ages, and Mike P's marathon disk-copying efforts were not only a sight to behold, they were considerably profitable as well. I think none of the officers had even vaguely expected to do as well as we did in disk sales, and picking up 20 new members took us all by surprise. Special thanks to Dick Selke, Richard Schraeder and Craig Harvey (have I missed anyone else?) for the time you spent manning the booth so that the officers could also enjoy the show.

The feature topic for the October general meeting will be "Repair & Troubleshooting." We cannot, of course, profess that any members will walk away from this meeting as qualified technicians, but it is our hope that you will have a better understanding of what causes your equipment to "act up" under certain circumstances. We will approach this subject informally using the old standby Question and Answer technique, so we ask that you come armed with not only a lot of questions, but some of the solutions that you may have concocted to problems you have experienced. Hopefully, if nothing else, we will at least convince you of the importance of regularly cleaning and lubricating your disk drives.

Last, but not least, we will be holding a special election to fill the vacant position of Recording Secretary on the WAUG! Executive Board. This is not a difficult job and really does not require a lot of time. If you can afford to spend about an hour a month and can also attend the regular monthly officer meeting, then I encourage you to consider running for the office. Your help is needed.

                                             Mike Olin

Minute by Minute -- Sept. Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Mike Olin. Mike welcomed all new visitors, and directed them to Pattie Snyder-Rayl for more information about joining WAUG.

Mike Olin discussed the Atari MAGIC show and if you were unable to attend, you truely missed out on a exceptional show. Mike talked about some of the things that were there, such as the MEGAs, Atari's laser printer and 1200 baud modem, Atari PC, and the new XE Game system. He also mentioned some things that were not at the show: the 80 column card for the 8-bit, the new 5-1/4 drive, and it was mentioned that the 3-1/2 drive has been dropped for good by Atari.

Mike also pointed out that members had not received the Sept. issue of Michigan Atari Magazine, for which it was thought Doug Feldman had collected the money. Appar-

ently not enough money was collected for the entire summer. WAUG! purchased a few copies of the Sept. MAM and made these available to members at the end of the meeting. There was considerable interest to continue receiving MAM and participating in that magazine as in the past.

Mike listed the proposed meeting topics for the year. Topics include graphics/printers; repair and troubleshooting; and a music night. For the December meeting, the officers have planned a Christmas party/MIDI-Maze tournament and one lucky member will win the MIDI-Maze software which was purchased by the club for this event. Raffle tickets for this software and an 8bit software package will be on sale at the WAUG! meetings, starting in October.

The rest of the WAUG! board members introduced themselves and very briefly described what they are doing for the club...

Vice President Pattie Snyder-Rayl said that she was in the process of obtaining a room at Washtenaw Community College that WAUG! may be able to use free of charge. [ED: See Pattie's article elsewhere in the Newsletter for more details--meeting place is not WCC!]

Mike Olin announced Secretary Doug Feldman had resigned in order to devote more time to his family, and a special election will be held at the October meeting to fill the vacant position. [ED: Tim Grzechowski filled in as secrectary for this month. Thanks, Groovus!]

Bob Carlini was unable to make it to the meeting, so Mike Olin gave the treasurer's report. We have 19 new members and thanks to the disk sales at the MAGIC show we had a very substantial increase in our bank funds. The members were asked to consider what we should do with the money. A suggestion was made to buy an 8-bit and an ST disk drive for use by the WAUG! disk librarians.

Newsletter Editor Bill Rayl discussed his plans for the newsletter, which include getting advertising, increasing the size of the newsletter, and starting monthly columns.

Mike Pieronek, the 8-bit librarian, talked about the disk sales at the MAGIC show, and that he had added three new disks this month. A number of other disks are being organized for addition to the library.

ST Librarian Bruce Urbanski reported that the ST library has risen from 23 disks to a total of 59 disks. This is due in part from a disk trade with the Toronto user group at the MAGIC show. New programs in the ST library include the Citadel BBS--runnable version and C source code, a full-featured public domain C compiler, networking software, and the list goes on.

A representative of Lighting Bolt Computers spoke to the members. The company sells hardware and software to user groups at a reduced rate, delivering orders at the next club meeting. Interested members were asked to fill out a questionnaire and price lists were available for ST hardware. For more information, contact a WAUG! officer.

There was a recommendation from Bill and Pattie that membership renewal dues be raised from $5 to $10. Discussion about this followed, and the increase will be voted on at the October meeting, following further discussion.

The meeting formally concluded at 9:20.

WAUG! News

Treasury Notes
by Bob Carlini

Where does all the money go? Well let's try to figure it out. We started the term in June, with $155.13. After deciding to attend the Atari MAGIC show, we took a gamble and purchased approximately $100.00 worth of disks. Along with that we had the usual expenses of mailing, printing, and room rental. Well the Atari show paid off, with the help of some hard working WAUGITES. Between memberships and disk sales we brought in approximately $560.00. After purchasing MIDI-Maze to be given away to a member at a future meeting, we had a bottom line figure of $530.09 in August.

After revitalizing our disk supply we have a bottom line of $516.71 in September. So to answer the question, "Where does all the money go?", it doesn't go, it comes. I hope we can continue to have a treasury that grows through disk sales and advertising so we can obtain the tools necessary to help the club grow in strength. So remember to support our club by purchasing disks at the everyday low, low prices.
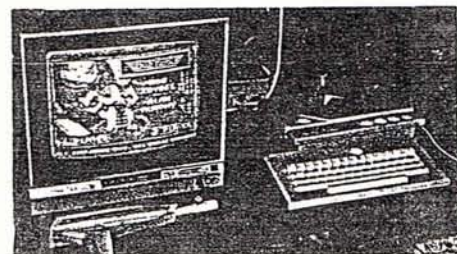
By the way, the treasury reports are open for any member to examine. We now have 24 new members since summer peak, for a total of 66. I'm sure we all want to welcome these members. They are:

Frank Alexander	Detroit
Kirt Amos	Inkster
Jonas Berzanskis	Ann Arbor
Mike Ford	Windsor
David Geiger	Fairborn
Mike Grabarkiewic	Wyandotte
Brian Hall	Ann Arbor
Wayne Inman	Monroe
Greg Kemp	Milford
Donald Ketz	Pinckney
Gregory Kranich	San Jose
Roger Lundberg	Plymouth
John Marazita	Windsor
Barbara McNally	Detroit
Tom Moceri	St. Clair Shores
Larry Mumford	Westland
Greg Nowosatko	Westland
Michael Ranger	Ann Arbor
Bob Retelle	Ypsilanti
Jim Shillington	Saline
James Sinkovich	Pinckney
Jay Skotcher	Farmington Hills
Roger Tanner	Canton
Dennis Ward	New Boston

There are several new members that I am especially glad to see come aboard. I hope every member participates and gets involved. I am looking forward to working with all you ATARIANS.

Until next time,
NO CARRIER

The New XE Game Machine.

From the Desk of... Vice President
by Pattie Snyder-Rayl

There was some confusion last month over where the next WAUG! meeting would be held, but now the mystery has been solved! The scene of the crime will be in Room 2228 of University of Michigan's School of Education on October 13th between 7:30 and 10 PM.

I did a lot of dialing (not M for murder!) after I was informed Washtenaw Community College did not have a spare room on Tuesday nights. I called several schools, but was told adult education filled the classrooms in the evenings. Then I remembered Bob Parker's suggestion of the U-M, but I was hesitant because of parking.

One of my top considerations was easy parking access, since we have a lot of out-of-towners who attend our meetings. But my worries were for naught. The School of Education has a parking structure right next to it for staffers, but this is open and free to the public after 6 PM. There are also meters on the whole block around the building, plus a metered parking structure only two blocks away. Again, all of this parking is free after 6 PM.

Another consideration was cost. The School of Education has three pay scales for room rentals, and, unfortunatly, we now pay top dollar ($25 per meeting). If we can either get recognized by the school (as two Ann Arbor computer user groups are now) or find a staff or faculty person willing to attend out meetings, the rental cost would decrease drastically.

This cost for room rental has thrown a wrench (in the conservatory with Professor Plum) into the idea we had of purchasing disk drives for the librarians' use. The officers have talked about this dilemma and should have several proposals for the members to consider at the October meeting.

So, come prepared to do some sleuthing to figure out a way WAUG! can meet and still purchase the needed disk drives for the librarians. All solutions and suggestions are welcome, even if you aren't Sherlock Holmes or Nancy Drew.

STash's Corner
by Bruce Urbanski, ST Librarian

We, here goes -- my first report on the first time I have run a library. I guess the only word that really describes what has happened to the library is CABOOM!!

Remember when the ST library first started? I think there were 5 disks. By the end of the year (June 87) we were up to 20. Well as of this writing the library is sitting at a comfortable 70 disks. Yep, count 'em -- 70. With a little of everthing: pics, utilities, games, MIDI demos, word processors and the list goes on and on...

I thought at this time it would be good to thank all the little people who have helped, especially Bob Retelle, Bill Rayl and Mike (Stinky) Mitchell. These guys have really done a great job.

I also would like to thank Art Nelson and Mike Mitchell (United Computer) for giving us disks on consignment during the Atari show. Without these disks things would have been a lot tougher. They seem to be very willing to support our user group, so again thanks to United Computer. [ED: Let's all show our support of them too! Visit their Canton store, tell them you're from WAUG! and thank them in person! They really have been very supportive.]

As it stands now the board has decided not to have copies of software ready for sale at the meetings. The main reason is cost. It's still early in the year and we have no idea of how disk sales will go and what disks will sell most. You can order a disk at the meeting and I will copy it during the meeting, then you can pick it up on the way out. Bill and I are currently working on a professional type of disk catolog, but for now listings by disk and file names are all that will be at the meeting. The catalog of the library is done with Super Directory by Michtron. If you have this program and would like the data file of the library, just bring a disk and I'll transfer it for you.

If there is something in the library you really need, just give me a call or leave a message Molin's Den and arrangements can be made to get disks to you between meeting dates. Or if you have a good file, donate it to the library. I'm sure everyone has something they would like to share with other members.

Well, that's all for this month. See ya at the meeting!!!

Inside Atari

At the August Atari MAGIC Show, Neil Harris of Atari Corporation held an informative seminar and question/answer session on Atari--past, present and future.

Neil Harris started his career as a salesman in a computer store owned by Commodore. From sales, he moved up into Commodore and even did some programming for them. "You people have it easy with your one-MEG machines," Harris said. "I had to write a two-player version of Blackjack with a little bit of graphics, and fit it all into 5K!"

After four years at Commodore, Harris shifted to Atari Corp. along with the Tramiel "family." Atari Explorer magazine was started by Harris shortly thereafter.

To give some perspective as to where Atari, as a company, is headed, Harris spoke about the company's past. In the last year that Atari was owned by Warner Communications, the company lost $500 million. "You can't just loose that kind of money. You have to work at it," Harris said. "When Jack Tramiel bought Atari, it looked as if everyone at Atari had been doing their best to spend as much as they could."

In January of 1984, Tramiel left Commodore and purchased Atari in July of the same year. The purchase did not include the video arcade/coinage part of the corporation -- Atari Games, Inc. -- which in now owned by NAMCO. Atari had begun work on a "new" computer line two years before the buyout, and this is the ST line we have today.

Since Tramiel's purchase of Atari, the company has done very well, as we all know. The ST line is doing a $200 million a year business and the 2600 and 7800 game machines are selling very well. The Atari 8-bit computer is, from all outward signs, a dying race. According to Harris, this is far from the truth. "We have literally hundreds of thousands of [8-bit] units in the warehouse. If anyone is motivated to sell 8-bit computers, it's us!"

Atari is hoping the new XE Game Machine will revitalize the market. In essence, the machine is a totally redesigned 65XE complete with drive port and detachable keyboard. The system costs $150 and comes with three game cartridges: Bug Hunt (with light pistol), Midnight Magic Pinball and Flight Simulator II. The cartridges and pistol are compatable with current 8-bit machines.

The XF551 drive, one of the "new" pieces of equipment that was conspicuously not at the show, gives a true double-sided, double density format (360k per disk) and is 2.9 times faster than the 1050 drive. Atari's SX212 1200 baud modem, which will sell for just under $100, will thankfully be RS-232 and SIO compatable.

On the 16-bit horizon, Harris said the long-awaited Megas are nearing release. "The Mega 4 should be shipping next month [October] and the Mega 2 a month later." These "should" have the blitter chip and accompanying new ROM chips. Harris pointed out that the ST name has been dropped from the Mega line, though current software will run on the Megas. Blitter upgrades for current ST owners will be available "soon" Harris promised. With the new ROMs,

necessary to use the blitter, the chips are projected to cost $100 to $125.

According to Harris, the laser printer, which was seen actually printing at the show, does contain a memory expansion bus and internal DMA port. "The laser printer can do a graphic screen dump in less than one second. On other laser printers using a Centronix interface, the same dump takes 100 seconds," Harris said. The speed factor is due to the use of the ST's DMA port. Desktop publishers shouldn't get too excited, though, because desktop publishing software needs time to "figure" a page, so there will be little or no speed improvement over current lasers.

For those of you who want IBM compatable **hardware**, the Atari PC is also slated for release before Christmas. The system is packaged similar to a Mega, but with a 5 1/4 inch drive. The CPU can run at 4.77 and 8 mHz, is expandable to 640k and is capable of EGA, CGA and Hercules graphics. The $699 package also comes with MS-DOS, GEM 2.1, GEMPaint and GEMWrite.

Finally, let's move away from the hardware scene... the suit filed by Atari against Commodore concerning chips in the Amiga has been settled. When asked if he'd like to comment on that, Harris said, "No. All I can say is that a settlement has been reached and one of the stipulations of the settlement is that we agreed not to talk about it." Sounds final to me.

Atari has also purchased Federated, an interstate chain of electronics retailers in the southern United States. According to Harris, Atari had $150 million cash (!) in the bank when they bought Federated for $60 million. Atari plans to use the chain to increase their market base, something they've wanted to do for some time. Some Wall Street analysts feel the buyout was a bad move, citing past attempts of other computer manufacturers who failed at similar attempts. Of course, those same analysts recognize that Jack Tramiel has been very successful at turning ailing businesses into profitable ventures, so...

Overall, the seminar was very informative and many of the audience members left the gathering expressing a renewed faith in Atari. Much of the negative attitude that users were feeling toward Atari seemed to vanish, in part due to the talks by Harris and Sandi Austin, and also, I believe, due to the fact that the new products (most of them) were at the show and running. It is my personal opinion that this smoothing of relations between Atari and the users who attended was the singlemost important accomplishment of the Atari MAGIC Show!

Magic in Detroit

Those of you who did not attend the three-day Atari MAGIC show in August missed a truly excellent convention. It is hoped this article will help fill you in on what you missed. First, I wish to commend the groups who coordinated this show -- MAGIC, GAG and GLASS. They did a first-rate job and made this a show to remember.

Now, on to the show! WAUG made it's entrance fairly early on Friday, the first user group to set up, so we got to see a number of vendors setting up. Amid workers laying pow strips, Hybrid Arts was hooking 16 STs together for MIDI-Maze, area stores were setting up their booths a Atari showed up in full force. WAUG misplaced a pow cable for the ST monitor, and Greg Kranich of Atari come to the rescue, loaning us one of theirs (which I returned to Neil Harris with our thanks).

WAUG! officers and members hard at work at the booth. Pictured (l-r) are Bill Rayl, Dick Selke and Mike Pieronek
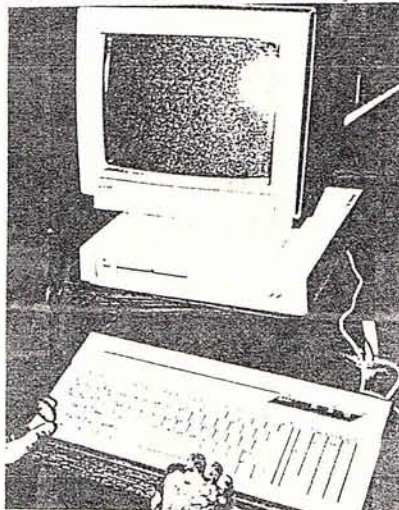
The exhibitors on the main floor (user groups set up in the hall) and the products they demonstrated were quite impressive.

Looking Glass Software was demonstrating ALICE Pascal, a GEM-based programming package that is ideal for learning Pascal.

Michtron was there showing GFA Basic, GFA Vector Airball, Trimbase and their other fine products. You co even sit down and play the true video-arcade Dragon's L using Michtron's ST interface for the video disk-based game.

Quantum Microsystems Inc. (QMI) had DeskCart, BB/ST 1.10 and their DO IT! DOS shell. They also were demonstrating ST-Talk Professional (look out FLASH!) and a multi-user version of BB/ST to be released with QMI's 4-modem plexor slated for spring release. Most of the interest at QMI's booth, though, concerned their ProTablet ST, a graphics tablet for CAD and desktop publishing applications.

Hybrid Arts demonstrated their MIDI music software and held MIDI-Maze game tournaments where 16 happy faces went head to head --literally -- in a battle to the death.

The Atari PC was running beautifully at the show.

ICD was there with MIOs, SpartaDOS Construction Set, cartridge-based SpartaDOS X, and a pile of other 8-bit

goodies. Keith Ledbetter was there showing his new BBS Express! ST. ICD also had their ST Host Adapter, used to connect IBM SCSI hard drives to the ST.

Microdaft had two new 8-bit games to show -- Solar Star and Drop Zone. Both games feature superb graphics. Look for these two to hit the shelves sometime this month!

Seymor-Radix, a Texas-based firm, demonstrated their new IMG scan package which turns a normal dot-matrix printer into an ST video digitizer.

XENIA Research had their XR-100 barcode system for the 8bit Atari. This package included a barcode wand and software for printing barcodes, perfect for adding to point of sale and contest software.

David Small and his company, Data Pacific, showed off the latest version of Magic Sac, the Macintosh emulator. Along with Translator One, hardware giving ST drives the ability to read and write Mac disks, the demonstration by Small was excellent.

Supra Corporation and Astra Systems were showing off their hard drives. The Astra HD+ 20-meg drive with double-sided ST drive was impressive as Lou Schwing, the company's president, waved it through the air and dropped it onto the table without the drive missing a bit! Supra had their new 2400 baud modem, which retails for just under $200.

Practical Solutions of Tuscon, Arizona, had their Monitor Master for sale. This product allows ST owners to change from color to monochrome monitors at the flip of a switch. Monitor Master allows hook up of composite monitor TVs to STs with an RF modulator. The company has two other soon-to-be-released products -- Mouse Master, which allows switching between mouse and joystick, and Video Key, an RGB to composite converter for STs without the RF modulator.
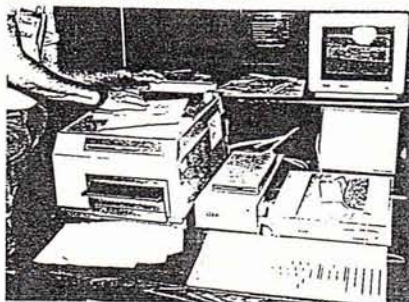
Alpha Systems was at the show with ST and 8-bit products. For the ST, Alpha systems had Polydisk, a plug-in cartridge giving your ST an extra 512K of memory; Digisound ST, the sound digitizer used to create the voice in ChessMaster 2000; Power Print ST, for printing high resolution b/w or color pictures up to six foot poster-size; and Color Computereyes, a color video digitizing system that captures images from video camera, VCR or Video Disk.

For the 8-bit machines, Alpha has a book and disk called "Your Atari Comes Alive," with instructions on how to build and program such devices as light pens, alarm systems and voice recognition systems. They also have an impressive product called Graphics Transformer, allowing 8-bit machines to convert picture formats; shrink or enlarge; combine or merge pictures of different formats, etc. For example, you can use digitized pictures in Print Shop!

A number of area computer stores were at the show as well. BEST Electronics was selling all kinds of hard-to-find hardware tidbits, including Macintosh ROM chips. The Basic Bits and Bytes chain was demonstrating ST software
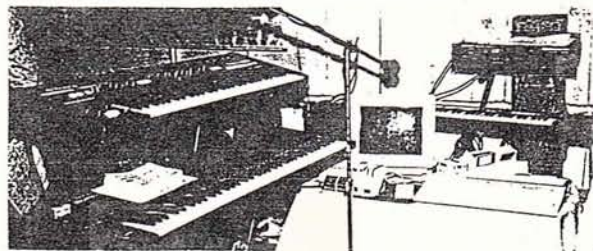
with educational, entertainment and desktop publishing applications. Rite-Way computers from Warren had a couple of booths jammed with Atari hardware and software, and Sector One of Sterling Heights had their booth packed as well.

And, somewhere in the midst of it all, there was Atari. The Megas, laser printer, Atari PC and XE Game Machine were all there, and running too! The 1200 baud modem was reportedly there as well, but I missed it in all the excitement. (I confess, Neil. I was the one who drooled on the laser printer!) Missing was the new 8-bit disk drive and the 80 column card, which have both been seen at other shows. Atari ASSURED me that they existed and would hit the market soon. How soon? Atari hopes to get this stuff onto the shelves before the Christmas buying season ends. Can't blame them for that!

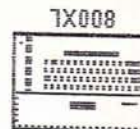Atari's new Laser is shown here connected to a MEGA 4.

While all this chaos (er... magic!) was going on in the large convention floor, a number of seminars and special shows were taking place in smaller rooms. There was a "user group roundtable" where members of user groups spoke with Sandi Austin of Atari and "Atari Speaks" featuring discussion of Atari with Neil Harris. There were also seminars on BBSes and telecommunications, GFA Basic, publishing with the ST, hard drives and the Magic Sac emulator. Each of these featured experts in the field, such as Keith Ledbetter (ICD's BBS Express ST and Express terminal programs), Tim Purves (Michtron's BBS) and Stephen Grimm (QMI's BB/ST) speaking on the telecommunications world. There were also some good MIDI music demos and lots of door prizes given away during the three days of the show.

MIDI was a hot topic of the MAGIC show

Overall, the show was a resounding success for everyone involved. I was personally fortunate enough to be at the show all three days, and I found I always saw something I"d missed earlier no matter how many times I "made the rounds." I felt like a little kid in a toy store, and I'm sure my eyes went wide and my mouth dropped open more than once during the show. For those of you who missed it, you truly missed a lot and this summary couldn't hope to cover everything. It was a lot of fun, and, as far as I'm concerned, that's what really counts!

STATE STREET
computer
club

334 1/2 STATE STREET, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48104 • (313) 663-0090

Please fill out the form below and send it to:

334 1/2 State Street
Ann Arbor, Mi. 48104

Membership Rates: $50.00 per year

Equipment	Member	Non-member
Atari ST	$2.00/hr.	not available
Amiga	$4.00/hr.	not available
Turbo Amiga (with 68020)	$7.00/hr.	not available
DigiView Camera and copy stand	$1.00/hr. (+ computer)	not available
Easyl Drawing Tablet	$1.00/hr. (+ computer)	not available
Xerox 4020 Color Printer	$2.00/page	$4.00/page
Laser Printer	$ .50/page	$1.00/page
AB Pen Plotter	$6.00/hr. (+ computer)	$12.00/hr. (+ computer)
Slide making equipment	$5.00/ exposure	$10.00/ exposure

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name_____

Addresws_____

State_____ Zip _____

City_____

Phone_____